



PUBLIC NOTICE

US Army Corps
of Engineers
Albuquerque District
4101 Jefferson Plaza, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109-3435
Fax No. 505-342-3498

Permit Application No:	Date:
NM-95-00499	September 3, 1996
Phone:	Suspense Date:
(505) 342-3283	October 3, 1996

In Reply Refer to:

District Engineer, ATTN: CESWA-CO-R

PERMIT APPLICATION UNDER SECTION 404 OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT (33 USC 1344)

Summary of Project: We are requesting public comment on the following project before the above suspense date. The application is for a permit to place dredged and fill material for bank stabilization and channel realignment purposes in the Animas River near Aztec, San Juan County, New Mexico. The project involves the realignment of approximately 1000 feet of the channel and the placement of up to 1500 cubic yards of rock riprap along the new bank. Details of the proposed project are provided below. A permit will be issued unless the work is found to be contrary to the public interest.

Name of Applicant: 3020 Neighborhood Association, 43 CR 3020, Aztec, New Mexico 87410, phone (505) 334-1344.

Location: The project is located within the Animas River southwest of Aztec, San Juan County, New Mexico, within the N1/2, NW1/4 of Section 17, Township 30 North, Range 11 West (36° 48.9' N Latitude, 108° 0.1' W Longitude).

Description of Work: The proposed project is a community project sponsored by the 3020 Neighborhood Association, an association of landowners south of Aztec, New Mexico. The river at the project site is flowing in a large outside bend to the south. From 1981 to 1991 this reach of the river was relatively stable, based on aerial photography. After 1991 the area experienced several years of heavy runoff and high flows. A landowner also cleared the vegetation from a site on the south bank of the river for a homesite. As a result of the high flows, the removal of vegetation from this site on the south bank, and the disturbance of the bank, the river began to erode this bank and the channel began to move further

to the south. At the present time, the river is flowing to the south in two channels, separated by an island.

The proposed work involves moving the channel more to the north and the stabilization of the new bank. The project would begin with the blocking off of the north channel, using non-erodible diversion structures such as concrete barriers. After all flows are diverted to the south channel, the north channel will be widened and deepened. After the completion of the work in the north channel, the diversion structures will be moved to the south channel. With the main flow in the river diverted to the north channel, the island will be moved over to fill in the south channel. The applicants estimate that up to 15,000 cubic yards (cys) of riverbed material will be moved within the channel. Approximately 1500 cys of 10"-24" diameter rock riprap will be placed on the new south riverbank for a distance of approximately 1000 feet. The rock riprap will be obtained from a local existing borrow source. Native vegetation, including willows, will be planted on the new south riverbank for additional stabilization and to provide wildlife habitat. At the conclusion of the project, the new river channel will be approximately 150 feet in width. The total quantity of dredged and fill material to be used in the project will be 16,500 cys. Work is expected to begin upon permit issuance and is expected to be complete within one month.

Purpose and Need: The stated purpose of the project is to conduct channel realignment and to provide bank stabilization along the south bank of the river to prevent bank erosion and loss of property.

Mitigation Proposed by the Applicant: The applicants propose to plant native vegetation, including willows and other vegetation, to further help stabilize the bank and to provide wildlife habitat. Non-erodible diversion structures will be used to divert flows.

Plans and Data: Drawings showing the location of the work site and other data are enclosed with this notice. If additional information is desired, it may be obtained from the applicant, or from:

James A. Wood
Albuquerque District, Corps of Engineers
4101 Jefferson Plaza, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109
(505) 342-3283

Statement of Findings: The District Engineer has consulted the National Register of Historic Places and no properties listed in the Register are present at the site

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of the proposed construction. Consultation with the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office (NMSHPO) has not revealed any pending nominations. This constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the District Engineer. It is possible, however, that presently unknown archeological, scientific, prehistoric, or historic data may be inadvertently lost or destroyed by the work accomplished under the requested permit. In the event that cultural resources are found, the NMSHPO will be contacted for advice on the appropriate action to be taken.

The following is a list of endangered (E) and threatened (T) species and/or critical habitat (CH) for San Juan County, New Mexico:

Bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus)-T
American peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus anatum)-E
Southwestern willow flycatcher (Empidonax traillii extimus)-E
Arctic peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus tundrius)-T
Black-footed ferret (Mustela nigripes)-E
Mexican spotted owl (Strix occidentalis lucida)-T/CH
Colorado squawfish (Ptychochelilus lucius)-E
Razorback sucker (Xyrauchen texanus)-E
Knowlton's cactus (Pediocactus knowltonii)-E
Mesa Verde cactus (Sclerocactus mesae-verdae)-T
Mancos milk vetch (Astragalus humillimus)-E

Our preliminary review indicates this project will not impact any of these threatened or endangered species or their critical habitats.

The applicant will apply to the New Mexico Environment Department for certification that this work is in compliance with applicable State water quality standards. The applicant is responsible for obtaining

all other required Federal, state, and local authorizations for this work.

In accordance with environmental procedures and documentation required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, an environmental assessment will be prepared for this project. Upon completion, the assessment may be seen at the Albuquerque District Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at the address given above.

Comment: Any comments concerning this project should be received by the District Engineer no later than October 3, 1996. Comments received after the end of the Public Notice comment period will not be considered. However, more time may be given if a request, with a valid reason, is received prior to the suspense date. The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed below. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The evaluation of the impact of this activity will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, EPA, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act. All factors relevant to the proposal and the cumulative effects will be considered; among these are conservation,

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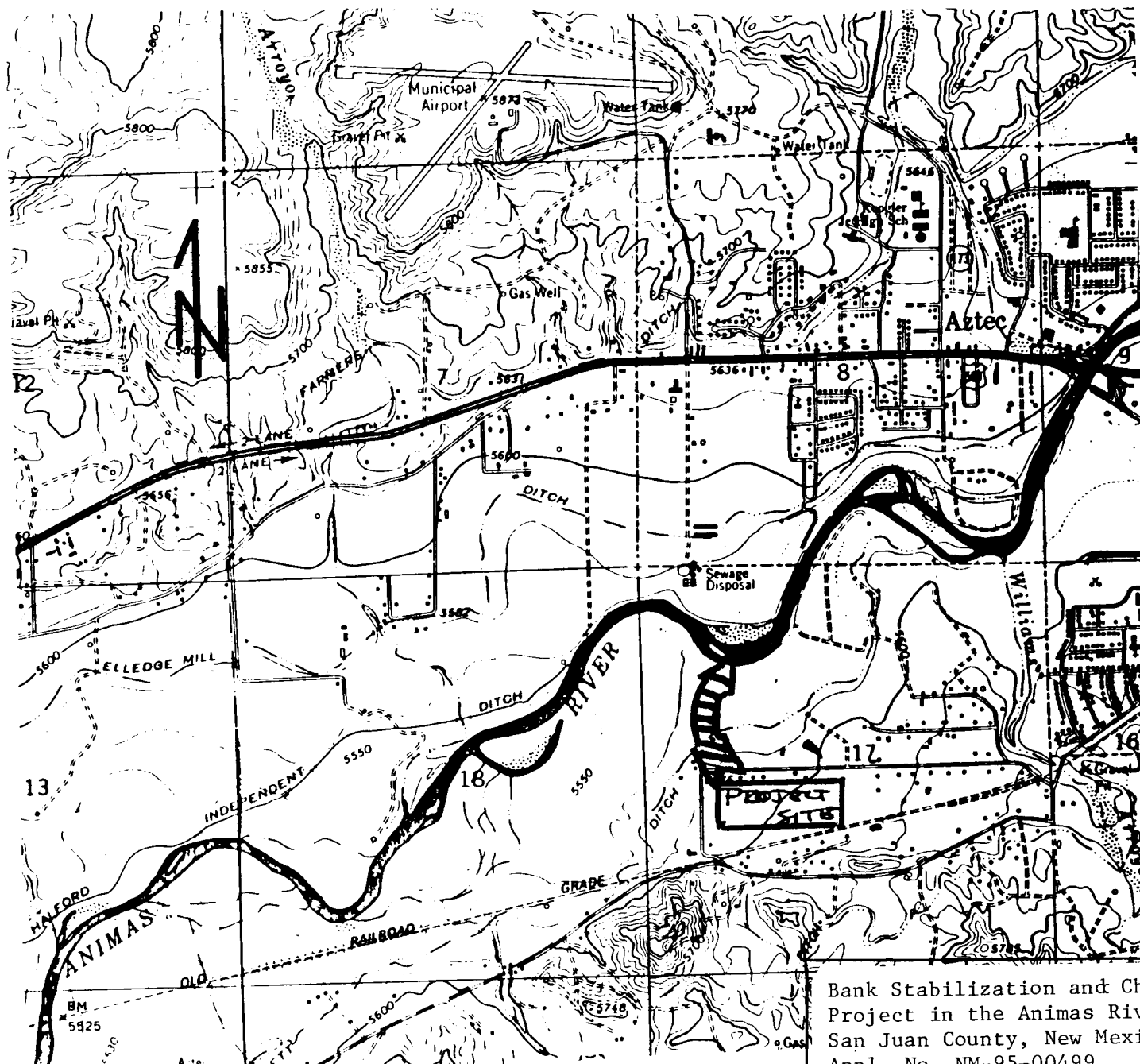
economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

A permit will be granted for this activity unless it is found to be contrary to the public interest.

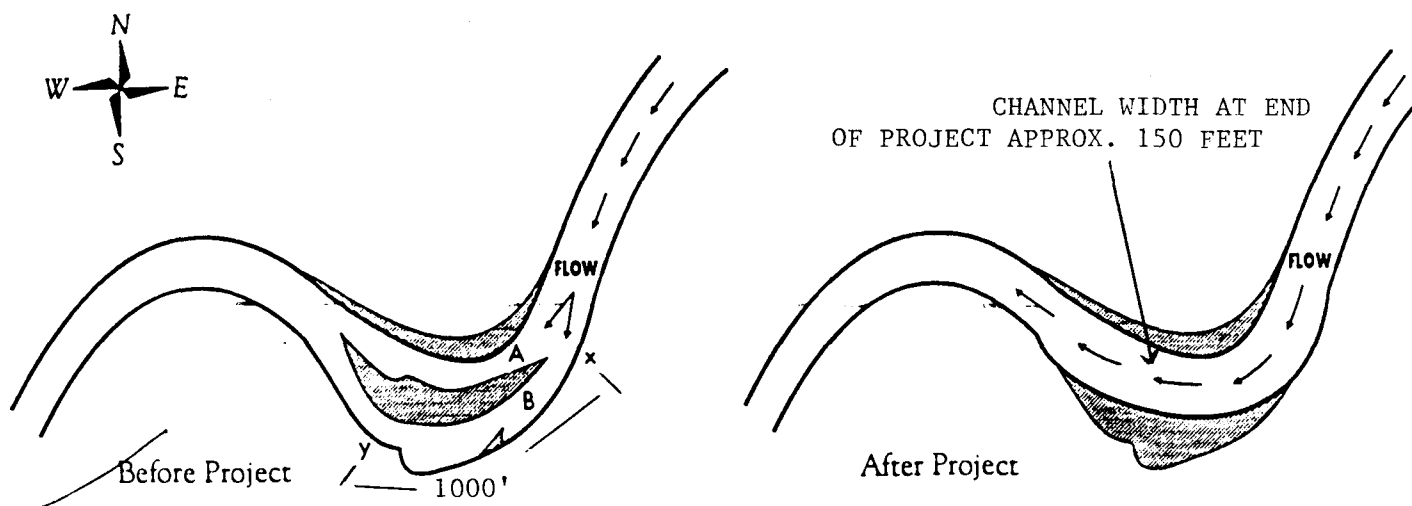
Any person may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted, in writing, to the District Engineer within 30 days of the date of this notice and must clearly set forth the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Lloyd S. Wagner
Lieutenant Colonel, EN
District Engineer

Enclosure



Bank Stabilization and Channel Realignment
 Project in the Animas River near Aztec,
 San Juan County, New Mexico
 Appl. No. NM-95-00499
 Appl. By 3020 Neighborhood Association
 Sheet 1 of 2 September 1996



3020 ANIMAS PROJECT

- 1) Block off *Channel A*. (Using concrete diversions or other similar means)
- 2) With a bulldozer, deepen and widen *Channel A*.
- 3) Block off *Channel B*. (Using concrete diversions or other similar means)
- 4) Move sandbar from the center of the river to the south side along the damaged banks.
- 5) Rip Rap with heavy rock along the bank beginning from *point x*, just east of the cottonwood where the water broke its bank last June, to *point y* near the beaver dam. (Approx. 1500 cys of 10"-24" diameter rock riprap)
- 6) Possibly add small jetty jacks or wing dikes along the south side to collect materials.
- 7) Berm or build up the lowered bank from *point x* to *y* to original level.
- 8) Plant willows and other vegetation to stabilize bank.
- 9) Reconstruct the acequia and replace road. (Rip rap replaces the lost post and cable and burned-out log and cable.)

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